

118. *CYANOCORAX GUATEMALENSIS*, Bp. *Consp.* p. 380.

Also from Cajabon and Honduras.

119. *CYANURUS CORONATUS* (Sw.). *Garrulus coronatus*, Sw. *Phil. Mag.* 1827, p. 437; *Sclater, P. Z. S.* 1858, p. 359.

Transmitted by Señor Constancia. Observed in the barranco of Los Chocoyos, in the Altos of Guatemala.

120. *CALOCITTA FORMOSA* (Sw.). *Cyanurus bullockii*, Bp. *P. Z. S.* 1837, p. 115.

Found abundantly on both the Atlantic and Pacific coast-regions, but never ascends to the central region.

121. *PSILORHINUS MORIO* (Wagl.).

Occurs on the eastern coast between Quirigua and Iguana, on the road to Guatemala.

[To be continued.]

II.—*Notes on Birds observed in Southern Palestine, in the months of March and April 1858.* By the Rev. H. B. TRISTRAM, F.L.S.

THERE is, perhaps, no country frequented by travellers whose Fauna is so little known as that of Palestine. This may arise partly from the more absorbing associations of sacred and historical interest, which are of themselves more than sufficient to occupy the attention during the short period usually allotted to a tour in Palestine; and partly from the extreme difficulty and even danger of pursuing researches in a region so unsettled and lawless.

The following list makes no pretension to anything like completeness, as ornithology was by no means the principal object of the writer's expedition, and the districts most abounding in birds, as the Lebanon, the upper waters of the Jordan, and the wooded regions of Northern Palestine, were not visited by him at all.

It is put forth rather in the hope that the fact of so many rare and interesting species having been observed in so short a time, may induce succeeding travellers to endeavour to supply

that which, up to the present time, is a desideratum in our knowledge of geographical ornithology.

1. GYPAËTOS (BARBATUS ?).

The Lammer Geyer was several times observed sailing over the high mountain-passes west of the Jordan; but as no specimen was obtained, it cannot be decided whether it was the *Gyp. barbatus*, or the variety or species, *Gyp. nudipes*, with the lower part of the tarsus bare.

2. GYPS FULVUS.

Common in all the hill-country of Judæa, and observed breeding in some ravines near the Dead Sea, and also between Jerusalem and Jericho.

3. NEOPHRON PERCNOPTERUS.

Universally distributed, and equally abundant in the plains of Sharon and the naked hill-district of the south. Breeds in great numbers in the valley of the Kedron, heaping up its enormous nest of sticks, rubbish, and old rags, on every convenient ledge. While the adult bird was to be seen through the whole country, I never observed a single specimen in the sombre livery of youth. One very fine bird paid the penalty of its curiosity, while we were sitting on a rock, at luncheon, on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. It made several swoops as though anxious to share our chicken, and hovering over us, fell dead at a discharge of No. 7 shot.

4. AQUILA CHRYSÆTOS.

Not uncommon. One sitting on a loose rock permitted me to approach near enough to ascertain its species.

5. AQUILA NÆVIA.

One bird was shot. It appears to be the commonest species in the rocky districts.

6. AQUILA HELIACA.

I believe I saw this bird perched on a little island on the north side of the Dead Sea. I was not able to obtain a specimen.

7. CIRCAËTOS GALLICUS.

Noticed preying on large lizards on the hills near Bethlehem.

Several individuals in the same neighbourhood. From the immense numbers of reptilia in the country, this Eagle is probably generally distributed.

8. MILVUS ATER.

Universally present about the towns and villages, hanging over the poultry, but apparently leaving them unmolested for the sake of the offal and garbage.

9. MILVUS PARASITICUS.

Not so common, and apparently preferring the wooded districts. I have noticed the same distinction in the habits of these two species in North Africa.

10. FALCO LANARIUS ?

On one occasion, while riding with an Arab guide, I observed a falcon of large size rise close to us. The guide, when I pointed it out to him, exclaimed, "*Tair Sakqr*." *Tair*, the Arabic for "bird," is universally throughout North Africa and the East applied to those falcons which are capable of being trained for hunting, *i. e.* "the bird" *par excellence*. *Tair el Hahr*, "the noble bird," is the common appellation of the Peregrine and its congeners. "*Sakqr*" I have only heard applied to the very large falcons—never to the *F. peregrinus* or *F. punicus*, both of which are trained by the Arabs for the chase. No doubt our specific name "*Falco sacer*" is derived, not from a Latin source, but from the Arabic trivial name of the species. There seems as yet much confusion in the nomenclature of the different larger species or races, which to the south and east of the Mediterranean take the place of the *F. grælandicus*, *islandicus*, and *norvegicus* of the North. The bird which I saw was nearly as large as a Jer Falcon, and had a very bright rufous head, the light colour extending to the back of the neck. How far *F. sacer*, *lanarius*, *cervicalis*, *biarmicus*, and *cherrug*, are distinct species, and what is the geographical range of each, seems a question well-worthy the investigation of naturalists travelling in the East.

11. FALCO PEREGRINUS.

I saw either this species, or one closely resembling it, on the rocks near Cæsarea.

12. *HYPOTRIORCHIS SUBBUTEO*.

Several Hobbies were seen, and one shot, in the wooded district not far from Ladrone, near the ancient Bethoron.

13. *HYPOTRIORCHIS ELEONORÆ*.

Though not noticed by me in the country itself, a very fine specimen, in the rich brown-black plumage of the adult, perched one afternoon on the mast-head of our yacht, not far from the coast. A general gun-cleaning was, fortunately for his life, going on at the moment, and he winged his way just as a piece had at length been put together. In the evening, about two hours afterwards, he returned, at least I presume it was the same, but only paused for a few minutes in the fore-rigging, when he went off towards land.

14. *TINNUNCULUS ALAUDARIUS*.

Universally distributed and extremely abundant. Large colonies breed in ruined towers in company with the succeeding species.

15. *TINNUNCULUS CENCHRIS*.

Gregarious about the ruins in the plain districts. About fifteen or twenty pairs were building their nests in and about the beautiful tower of Ramleh (*Arimathea*) in company with a still larger number of the common Kestrel, and flew screaming round me, as I climbed the still perfect staircase of the tower. It was interesting to watch them in the evening sweeping like swallows over the fields, or threading their way up and down the lanes fenced with prickly pear, in pursuit of the *Scarabæi* on which they were feeding, seizing them with their claws on the wing, and as they sailed by me, picking off with their beaks the *elytra* of their prey, and dropping them almost at my feet. Though I have never found the lesser Kestrel either in Asia or Africa except in company with the common species, yet it seems to be without the power of adaptation possessed by its congener, confining itself to old towers and rocks, and living always in communities more or less numerous. I obtained some beautiful specimens at Ramleh. There is a still larger colony about the old ruined English church of Lydda, over the reputed tomb of "St. George of merrie England."

16. *ERYTHROPUS VESPERTINUS*.

A few pairs were seen among the large terebinth-trees near the foot of the hills of Judæa. They seem to roost and build there, feeding only in the plains, over which they hover, resembling rather the Kestrels in their habits and flight than the Hobby.

17. *MICRONISUS GABAR*.

Once seen, on a hill-side to the south of Bethlehem, preying on a large lizard.

18. *CIRCUS* — — ?

We noticed Harriers several times skulking over the plains, but, not having obtained specimens, cannot state the species. The Marsh Harrier was not observed.

19. *ATHENE MERIDIONALIS*.

Extremely common in all the hill country and plains alike. Frequently one would be seen by the side of a mountain-path, on a bare rock, selecting the most conspicuous position, and remaining there until we came close up, and then leisurely removing to another spot some twenty yards off. Seldom could we ride for an hour in any part of the country without noticing this comical little fellow. Mount Olivet is one of his favourite resorts.

20. *SCOPS ZORCA*.

Frequently heard, and once obtained. It seems to inhabit the Mosque of Omar at Jerusalem, and prefers the neighbourhood of man to the wilder portions of the country.

21. *STRIX FLAMMEA*.

I started this bird once in the daytime from a thicket of trees on the banks of the Jordan.

22. *CYPSELUS APUS*.

We saw a few Swifts, as we were leaving Jaffa, in April, but had not observed them before in the interior. Probably they were not then returned from their southern migration.

23. *CYPSELUS MELBA*.

We observed several pairs apparently commencing the business of nidification near Mar Saba, and again in the tremendous ravine above the site of Jericho.

24. COTYLE RIPARIA.

Abundant in the sandy banks on the left side of the Jordan. I may mention in passing that I have found the Sand Martin breeding in Egypt in February. Is it not, therefore, probably double-brooded?

25. COTYLE RUPESTRIS.

The Rock Martin is not unfrequent in the barren gorges of the Kedron, near the Dead Sea, where I found it breeding at the end of March, and obtained specimens. I have observed, both in the Atlas range and in Palestine, that it appears to be confined to mountain gorges, and that it is by no means gregarious, each pair keeping a range of territory to themselves, though the bird occurs from one end of the pass to the other.

26. HIRUNDO RUFULA, Temm.

Appears to be the Common Swallow of the Holy Land. I cannot be sure that I saw *H. rustica* at all, though possibly it might not yet have returned from the South.

27. CORACIAS GARRULA.

Seen occasionally in the olive-yards and wooded hill-sides.

28. MEROPS PERSICUS.

In the valley of the Jordan. I think I also saw *Merops apiaster*, but I obtained no specimens.

29. CERYLE RUDIS.

One specimen seen near the Jordan.

30. UPUPA EPOPS.

Common about the towns and villages. Frequents dunghills, and is extremely tame and familiar. The Arabs have a superstitious reverence for this bird, which they believe to possess marvellous medicinal qualities, and call it "the Doctor." Its head is also an indispensable ingredient in all charms and in the practice of witchcraft.

31. SITTA SYRIACA, Ehrenb.

Few birds have interested me more than the Dalmatian Nuthatch. I had good opportunities of observing its habits in the south of the Morea in winter, and I encountered it again in the hill-country of Judæa. Unlike our species, it is confined to

the most barren and rocky regions, and runs up and down the stones with wondrous agility, descending head downwards, and then, by a sudden bound, flying to the foot of the next rock, which it climbs, and runs down after the same fashion, searching the crevices as it goes, for small beetles, with which the stomachs of those I examined were filled. In summer and winter alike they were always in pairs, never (as *Sitta europæa*) in small flocks. The note is louder than that of our species, and much resembles the call of the Spotted Woodpecker.

32. *TROGLODYTES EUROPEUS*.

Frequent.

33. *ERYTHROPYGIA GALACTOTES*.

Seen near the Jordan.

34. *HIPPOLAIS SALICARIA*.

In moist places near Jericho.

35. *SALICARIA TURDOIDES*.

Among the reeds by the mouth of the Jordan.

36. *PHYLLOPNEUSTE RUFA*.

Generally distributed.

37. *PHYLLOPNEUSTE BONELLII*.

One specimen shot.

38. *MELIZOPHILUS PROVINCIALIS*.

Among the bushes on the dry hill-sides, in the most barren parts of the country.

39. *SYLVIA SUBALPINA*.

Shot on the wooded banks of the Jordan.

40. *SYLVIA MELANOCEPHALA*.

Frequent in gardens and olive-yards.

41. *CURRUCA ORPHEA*.

Several times met with in olive-yards and on wooded hill-sides throughout the country.

42. *CURRUCA ATRICAPILLA*.

Found in numerous flocks in the defiles opening on the Dead Sea. Had I not procured and brought home several specimens, I should have doubted its identity with our species, so different

was the locality from its usual resorts here. Probably the birds were just then returning from their southern migration.

43. *RUTICILLA TITHYS*.

Frequent on the barren rocky hills.

44. *SAXICOLA RUBICOLA*.

Lower down the hills, among the low bushes.

45. *SAXICOLA RUBETRA*.

In the same localities as the preceding.

46. *SAXICOLA SALTATRIX*, Ménétries.

On the bare rocky hills. In habits and locality exactly like our Wheatear.

47. *SAXICOLA EURYMELÆNA*, Hempr. et Ehrenb.

Obtained in an olive-yard close to Bethlehem, where the bird is not uncommon. It is fond of perching on the top of a wall, and drops down noiselessly as danger approaches, with a silent flight skimming the ground till it rests again on a stone or clod at some little distance, where it remains jerking its tail until again disturbed.

48. *SAXICOLA** — ?

A pair shot at St. Helena's Well, not far east of Bethany. They had a nest in a hole of the wall over the well, containing four blue eggs thickly spotted with rusty brown.

49. *DROMOLÆA LEUCURA*.

I saw this bird, as I believe, to the south-east of Bethlehem, among the barren hills; but as I have obtained in the Sahara several specimens of a nearly allied species just described by Brehm as *Dromolæa leucopygia*, and did not obtain a specimen of the bird I saw in Palestine, the species must remain for the present doubtful.

50. *PETROCINCLA SAXATILIS*.

Frequent in the deep gorges of the Kedron.

* Mr. Tristram has submitted these specimens to my examination. The species appears to agree with *Saxicola lugens* of Licht., as figured in Temminck's Planches Coloriées, under the name *Sax. leucomela*.—ED.

51. PETROCINCLA CYANEA.

Observed in every part of the country. Unlike the Rock Thrush, it was often seen perched on the half-ruined buildings of the Palestine towns and villages ; and has been supposed by some to be " the sparrow that sitteth alone upon the house-top " of Scripture.

52. IXOS XANTHOPYGIUS, Hempr. et Ehrenb. (*Ixos vallombrosæ*, Bp.)

This most interesting bird was found in all parts of the country, wherever there is wood or gardens, from Jaffa to the Jordan. In its skulking habits it exactly resembles the *Ixos obscurus* of Algeria, but its brilliant saffron vent renders it conspicuous among the bushes. The head and throat are of a deep black ; and there is scarcely any perceptible difference between the sexes in plumage, but that the black on the head of the female is not quite so bright. It is the finest songster in Palestine, and has obtained the name of the Palestine Nightingale, which is well deserved, whether for the volume or the variety of its notes. It wants, however, the last two notes of the nightingale's song. On arriving at the banks of the Jordan long before sunrise, at 4 A.M., the thick jungle which fringes the river was alive with the cheery notes of these unseen musicians, who continued their concert until nearly noon.

53. TURDUS MERULA.

Seen, but not obtained.

54. TURDUS MUSICUS.

In the olive-yards.

55. CRATEROPUS CHALYBEUS, Bp.

I obtained this rare bird in the open wooded district near Jericho, where it lives in small flocks of from six to twelve. It was interesting to observe how exactly, in its peculiar habits and note, it corresponds with its congener, *Crateropus numidicus*, with which I was most familiar in the Sahara. The unseen party keep up a perpetual chattering in a bush, something like the clamour of a flock of starlings. On your approach the noise is hushed, and, if possible, they steal away unseen on the other side to another thicket, where, as soon as they feel at a safe distance,

the conversation recommences. They fly in an irregular line, never in a flock, and spreading their long tails, always alight at the foot of the bush or tree. They then climb to the top one after another, hopping from bough to bough (where is the only chance of getting a shot), and leisurely descend to the ground on the other side, taking care in retiring to keep the covering object in a straight line between their pursuer and themselves. I scarcely ever met with a more wary bird. They appear to be sedentary in all their localities, and there is no sexual distinction of plumage in either of the two species of the genus with which I am acquainted.

56. *ANTHUS CAMPESTRIS*.

Common in the higher plains and on the hills.

57. *ANTHUS PRATENSIS*.

Very abundant in the Plain of Sharon.

58. *BUDYTES MELANOCEPHALA*.

The only one of the genus I noticed. The head was of a deep black, and the white line behind the eyes very distinct. I saw a skin in Jerusalem, which I took to be that of *Budytes flava*.

59. *MOTACILLA ALBA*.

On the Plain of Sharon, beginning to assume its summer dress. Abundant.

60. *PARUS MAJOR*.

The Great Tit was the only species of the genus which I met with.

61. *MUSCICAPA* — ?

I observed a Flycatcher repeatedly, but neglected to secure a specimen, and therefore cannot be certain whether it was *Musc. atricapilla* or *albicollis*, but I think the latter.

62. *LANIUS MINOR*.

In the neighbourhood of Jaffa.

63. *LANIUS CUCULLATUS*.

Seen only once near Kirjath-jearim.

64. ENNEOCTONUS RUFUS.

The Woodchat is one of the commonest birds of Palestine, frequenting olive-yards and gardens.

65. GARRULUS MELANOCEPHALUS.

I found this splendid Jay in several localities where there was timber of sufficient size to afford it cover. My examples were shot by my friend Mr. J. L. Gibbs.

It is difficult to conceive how, with specimens in hand of the different species, the confusion of authors could have arisen as to *Garrulus glandarius* of Europe, *G. melanocephalus* of Asia and the Caucasus, and *G. cervicalis* of Algeria. The smaller size, the darker colouring, the black forehead, deep chestnut neck and collar, the lesser extent of the blue on the scapulars, and the very light brown outer tail-feathers of the Algerian bird, at once separate it from the others.

Garrulus melanocephalus has not only the rich black feathers extending to the nape of the neck, but has the forehead white instead of spotted, as in our species; while the black moustache is of twice the extent and breadth, the region behind the eyes is white instead of chestnut, the white on the throat extends much lower down, and the lower plumage is of a much lighter colour. It is probable, then, that the specimens quoted by Degland as from Syria have been Algerian skins passed off by the Paris dealers, my skins corresponding, as might have been expected, with the Caucasian bird described by Nordmann. My friend Colonel Drummond, who has frequently shot the Common Jay in Greece, remarks that he never found *Garrulus melanocephalus* in that country.

66. AMYDRUS TRISTRAMII, Selater.

This handsome bird, which Mr. Selater has done me the honour to name after me, and has described in the 'Annals of Natural History' for December 1858, I discovered in the gorge of the Kedron, not far from the Dead Sea. Several pairs were breeding in the rocks among the cells hewn out by the old monks of Mar Saba. In habits and manners they reminded me somewhat of the Grakles of North America, but seem a strictly desert bird. The species ought to be found at Petra, if

anywhere. The male has but two notes, but those are of wonderful power and of the richest volume. The roll of his music is something like that of the Organ-bird of Australia, and makes the rocks resound. The nest is placed in inaccessible crevices of the cliffs, and the birds are bold and fearless, allowing a stranger to approach very near while continuing their song, then suddenly breaking off for an instant and renewing it the moment one stands still. The plumage of the female is much inferior in brilliancy to that of the male, but she has the same rich chestnut wings.

67. *CORVUS CORAX*.

Universally present.

68. *CORVUS CORNIX*.

Not uncommon.

69. *PASTOR ROSEUS*.

One specimen seen in an orange-grove at Jaffa.

70. *STURNUS VULGARIS*.

Large flocks feed in the Plain of Sharon.

71. *CHLOROSPIZA CHLORIS*.

Common in all the gardens throughout the country.

72. *PETRONIA STULTA* (Gm.).

Found everywhere on the bare stony hills, and frequenting the villages for food, but never observed among gardens or trees.

73. *PASSER SALICICOLA*, Vieill.

In vast numbers near Jericho.

74. *PASSER CISALPINUS*.

I believe that it is this variety which frequents the towns and villages, but unfortunately I did not preserve a specimen.

75. *PASSER MONTANUS*.

About Jerusalem.

76. *FRINGILLA CŒLEBS*.

Very common.

77. *EUSPIZA MELANOCEPHALA*.

In the brushwood on the hill-sides on the road from Ramleh to Jerusalem.

78. *CARDUELIS ELEGANS*.

In flocks on the Plain of Sharon.

79. *LINOTA LINARIA*, Linn.

Common throughout the country.

80. *ERYTHROSPIZA GITHAGINEA*.

In the most desert portion of the rocky wilderness between Bethlehem and Hebron.

81. *EMBERIZA MILIARIA*.

Common on all the cultivated plains.

82. *EMBERIZA HORTULANA*.

Generally distributed.

83. *EMBERIZA CÆSIA*.

One of the most common birds of the more fertile districts of Palestine. Perched on the topmost bough of a shrub or tree, it continues its monotonous song throughout the day, and is to be seen on almost every bush. In its habits and actions it is very different from its Algerian congener, *Emberiza saharae*, which it so nearly resembles in form and plumage, avoiding buildings, and not, as far as I am aware, perching on stones or walls. Its nest is placed near the ground in a low bush.

84. *GALERIDA CRISTATA*.

Excessively abundant both in the plains and on the bare hills. It had reared its brood at the end of March in some instances.

85. *CALANDRELLA BRACHYDACTYLA*.

Common in the more barren districts.

86. *MELANOCORYPHA CALANDRA*.

In the Plain of Sharon.

87. *AMMOMANES ISABELLINA*.

Plentiful in the rocky deserts, especially near the Dead Sea.

88. *AMMOMANES* — ?

A smaller species, possibly the *Amm. elegans* of Brehm, with the dark bar on the extremity of the tail; but I was not able to preserve my specimen for want of time. In the same locality as the preceding.

89. CUCULUS CANORUS.

I have heard this bird in Palestine, but did not obtain nor see it.

90. COLUMBA ŒNAS.

Several shot in woods near Jericho.

91. COLUMBA LIVIA.

In great numbers where there are rocks and water.

92. TURTUR AURITUS.

Resorts to the orange-groves round Jaffa.

93. TURTUR ÆGYPTIACUS.

One shot near Jericho, where the Arabs state it is common.

94. COLUMBA — ?

I saw several of a pigeon new to me near Jericho—decidedly smaller than the Stock Dove; but I was unsuccessful in my endeavours to obtain a specimen.

95. PTEROCLES — ?

The only Sand-grouse I met with were a small flock to the west of the Dead Sea. They were neither *Pt. arenarius* nor *Pt. setarius*, and seemed to me to be *Pt. exustus*.

96. CACCABIS SAXATILIS.

The Partridge of the country. The Francolin, which is stated to inhabit Palestine, did not come under my observation. I cannot help thinking that there are two distinct races of *Cacc. saxatilis*, neither of them agreeing exactly with the bird I have procured in Greece and in Crete. The specimens I obtained in the cultivated districts are much lighter in colour than the Greek specimens. The black collar is narrower, and the throat sandy white instead of rufous. At the same time they are at least one-third heavier, and at table rival the pheasant in size. They are of a flavour far superior to the French red-legged or Barbary birds. In the mountains I procured others very much smaller than my Greek specimens, but of plumage more like them in hue. The eggs of a nest of this variety, which I took while in the mountains, eleven in number, are scarcely as large as those of *Perdix petrosa*.

97. *CACCABIS HEYII* (Temm.).

Of this rare bird, perhaps one of the most elegant of its group, I was fortunate enough to obtain a fine specimen. Riding on a barren hill near the Dead Sea, we observed a pair of birds scarcely larger than a quail running on the steep side with the swiftness of a dog. After a long chase, and forcing them with great difficulty to take wing, one of my companions, Mr. Musters, succeeded in shooting the male bird, which he kindly presented to me. We afterwards saw another pair near Mar Saba. The whole plumage, with the orange bill and lemon-coloured tarsi, is a singular blending of the characteristics of the types of *Caccabis* and *Perdix*.

98. *COTURNIX DACTYLISONANS*.

Extremely abundant wherever there is cultivation in the plains.

99. *OTIS TARDA*.

I am told that this bird is sometimes brought into the market at Jaffa from the Plain of Sharon.

100. *OTIS TETRAX*.

Not uncommon in the corn-fields on the plains.

101. *ÆDIGNEMUS CREPITANS*.

Abundant in the plains.

102. *HOPLOPTERUS SPINOSUS*.

A pair observed on the banks of the Jordan.

103. *GRUS CINEREA*.

Saw a flock near Lydda, apparently on their migration. The bird is well known to the inhabitants.

104. *CICONIA ALBA*.

Several seen not far to the north of Jerusalem.

105. *CICONIA NIGRA*.

I met with a flock of about two hundred Black Storks, apparently searching for food in the barren salt plain close to the north-west corner of the Dead Sea. They were too wary to allow me to approach within shot, but did not fly far when disturbed. As well as I could discover, they were feeding on the

small snails which cluster on the twigs of the *Salsola* in that arid region.

106. ARDEA CINEREA.

On the banks of the Jordan.

107. EGRETTE ALBA.

Marshes near Jaffa.

108. EGRETTE GARZETTA.

In the same marshes in considerable numbers.

109. BUPHUS RUSSATUS, Wagl.

Very abundant in the moist meadows round Jaffa.

110. BUPHUS COMATUS (Pallas).

In the same locality as the last.

111. ARDEOLA MINUTA (Linn.).

I flushed one, which I did not obtain, near the mouth of the Jordan.

112. NUMENIUS TENUIROSTRIS?

Some Curlews which I saw near Kirjath-jearim I take to have been of this species.

113. RHYNCHASPIS CLYPEATA.

The only duck I met with in Palestine was a solitary male Shoveller flying up the course of the Jordan.

114. PELECANUS CRISPUS.

An immense flock of this Pelican passed us, swimming out to sea, when within sight of Mount Carmel.

115. STERNA LEUCOPTERA.

One specimen, apparently a straggler, at Jaffa.

116. STERNA CASPIA.

Several of these splendid Terns were fishing close to the shore at Jaffa.

117. XEMA MELANOCEPHALUM.

Abundant at Jaffa.

118. LARUS FUSCUS.

In the same locality, very abundant.

119. LARUS ARGENTATUS.

Common along the coast.

Several other Gulls were also observed, but not obtained, as we lay at anchor, and in Caiffa Bay probably the whole of the south-eastern species might be collected. *Larus audouinii* and *Sterna affinis* were among those we recognized, but could not secure.

Note to Mr. Tristram's Paper on the Birds of Palestine.

We are acquainted with only two authorities of any importance on the Birds of the Holy Land: first, Hemprich and Ehrenberg's 'Symbolæ Physicæ' (Berlin, 1820-25); and secondly, a paper of Prince Bonaparte in the 'Comptes Rendus' (vol. xlii. p. 764). The following extract, which contains all that relates to Syrian ornithology in the former work, it has been thought advisable to reprint, as the book is very scarce, and difficult of access:—

"In Syriâ xxx. species observavimus, Europæas xx., Asiaticas x. Inter genera unicum Asiaticum est. Nomina nunc brevi enumerare lubet.

1. IXOS XANTHOPYGOS, Nob.

(Staturâ et colore *Ixo capensi* et *I. arsinoæ* simillima, hoc paullò major, caudâ longiore, crisso et tectricibus inferioribus lætè flavis: rostro validiore, magis curvato. Capite atro a *capensi* diversus. Marem fœminam et pullos novimus. Specimina xix. In Arabiâ frequens, in Africâ nunquam visus.)

2. TURDUS SAXATILIS.

3. TURDUS MERULA, var. syriaca.

(Ab Europæâ differt rostro digitisque validioribus, caudâ longiore. Remigum iv^{tus} longissimus.—Rostrum album. Specimen unicum habuimus.)

4. CINCLUS AQUATICUS, var. rufiventris et albiventris.

5. SAXICOLA EURYMELÆNA, Nob.

(Specimina ix. adsunt, Syriaca omnia. Collare, tergæum et vertex cum pectore et abdomine et basis caudæ alba. Vertex cinereo aspersus. Cervix et pectus dilutè isabellina. Caudæ $\frac{2}{3}$ apice nigræ. Alæ, gula et frontis margo nigra. Fœmina

fusca, gutture nigricante, prope mentum fusco asperso, maculâ paroticâ rufescenti-fuscâ, maculâ pone oculos albâ.

A *S. stapazinâ* Europæâ facillè distinguitur gulæ nigritudine latiore. A *Saxicolâ deserti* Arabicâ et Africanâ collari albo statim discernitur. A *S. xanthomelanâ* Africanâ et Arabicâ rostro paullò longiore, caudâ latiùs nigrâ, alis non marginatis et colore albo, nec flavicante, differt.)

6. SAXICOLA RUBICOLA.

7. SAXICOLA AMPHILEUCA, Nob.

(Staturâ et colore *S. auritæ* valdè affinis, fronte gulâque albis. Specimina xii. adsunt, Syriaca omnia. Rostrum, pedes et cauda *stapazinæ*, sed gulâ albâ, vertice tergoque non ferrugineis sed mere albis aut cinerascentibus. Unguis posterior brevior, minùs acutus. Ab *auritâ* differt colore candidiore, dorso et abdomine albis, vertice cinereo, pectore flavescente, capite planiore, nigredine inter nares et oculos latiore.)

8. SAXICOLA LIBANOTICA, Nob.

(Staturâ et colore *S. stapazinæ* affinis. Specimina x. venatissimus, Syriaca omnia, mares, fœminas et pullos. Rostrum tarsisque longioribus et tergæo cærulescenti-cinereo ab affinibus statim distinguitur. Tarsi validi, pollicares: rostrum a fronte 6''' superat, acutum, rectum. Tergum a vertice inde cærulescenti-cinereum. Frons cum lineâ supra-oculari albâ. Fascia nigra per oculos ducta. Alæ cum caudæ apice nigræ. Subtùs tota alba. Fœminæ alis fuscis et fasciâ oculari fuscâ differunt. Pulli fuscescentes, flavo guttati, rostro tarsisque longis faciles discretu.)

9. SAXICOLA CENANTHE.

10. SAXICOLA ROSTRATA, Nob.

(Specimina vii. adsunt, eaque in Ægypto superiore, Arabiâ Septentrionali et Syriâ occisa sunt. Staturâ et colore *S. ænanthæ*, sed rostro 6''' ad 7''' longo, basi latiore, apice tenuiore differt. Senilis cinerea; sed in quatuor speciminibus junioribus, ptilosi *ænanthæ* autumnali indutis et late flavo marginatis remigibus pictis, longissima rostra vidimus. *Ænanthæ* rostrum 5''' ad 6''' longum. An *ænanthæ*, cujus l. specimina attuli, memorabilis varietas est?)

11. SYLVIA PHENICURUS.

12. SYLVIA SEMIRUFA, Nob.

(Duodecim specimina congesimus, Ægyptiacum unum, reliqua omnia in monte Libano Syriæ. Mares adultos iii., adoles-

centem distinctum i., reliquos adolescentes sexu dubios habuimus, fœminas suspicabamur eas, quibus color juvenilis, sed alæ non limbatæ sunt. Statura *titæ* ejusque stethiæi colore atro in adultis, sed abdomen *phœnicuri*, saturatiùs ferrugineum. Abdomine et axillis cinnamomeis et rostro longiore a *titâ* differt, a *phœnicuro* remigum secundo brevior, pectore totoque stethiæo atro et ungue rectiore recedit. Mas adultus in capite cinerascit. Rostrum 5''' ad 5½''' longum.)

13. CURRUCA GALACTODES, var. syriaca.

(Staturâ *Ægyptiacâ* paullò minor, pedibus gracilioribus, digito posteriore brevior, tarsi æqualibus, rostro brevior depressior, rectricibus mediis nigricantibus. Colori *Ægyptiacæ* et *Europææ* reliquis notis convenit.)

14. CURRUCA PHRAGMITIS.

15. CURRUCA LANGUIDA, Nob.

(Staturâ et habitu *Currucae pallidæ* nostræ, et *arundinacæ* Auctorum valdè affinis, magis cinerascens. Cauda paullò magis gradata, solis ii. extimis pennis apice et margine albis. Rostrum basi minùs depressum, carinâ altiore, hinc a latere validius apparet. Suprà unicolor, obscurè fuscenti-cinerea, subtus alba, bracciis fuscentibus. Linea supra-ocularis pallida obsoleta. Unicum specimen Syriacum, tanquam e *Curruca garrulâ* et *pallidâ* hybridum.)

16. CURRUCA GARRULA.

17. CURRUCA CINEREA.

18. CURRUCA VIRIDULA, Nob.

(Specimina vi. Habitus et color *S. trochili*, sed statura paullulùm major et alæ longiores. Remigum ratio ut apud *trochilum*. Alæ 2'' 6''' ad 2'' 7''' longæ, nec 2'' 3''' ad 2'' 4'''. Alæ subtus flavent, alæ albe; nonnullæ suprà cinerascunt.)

19. CURRUCA TROCHILUS.

20. CURRUCA CISTICOLA.

21. CURRUCA GRACILIS. (*Sylvia gracilis*, Licht.)

22. CURRUCA ORPHEA, var. Helena, Nob.

(Staturâ *C. orpheæ* *Europææ* inferior, rostro longiore, minùs convexo. Long. 5'' 9''', myxi long. 2½''' æquat. Colore *Europæam* æquat. Specimina iii. adsunt, Syriacum i. capite nigro, Arabica ii. capite cinereo.)

23. CURRUCA ATRICAPILLA.

24. CURRUCA MOMUS, N. (*Sylvia melanocephala* Nubiæ, Licht.)
(Specimina iv. Habitus et color *Curruca melanocephalæ*. Rostro, tarsi totoque corpore minor quàm *melanocephala*, remigum 2^{dus} septimo longior, qui eo brevior in *melanocephala* est. Tarsus $8\frac{1}{4}$ ". Cauda gradata.)

25. LANIUS MINOR.

26. LANIUS RUFUS, var.

27. MUSCICAPA GRISOLA.

28. MOTACILLA ALBA.

29. BUDYTES BOARULUS.

30. ANTHUS CAMPESTRIS."

The species mentioned by Prince Bonaparte as from Palestine in his article in the 'Comptes Rendus' are—(1) *Cinnyris osea*, Bp. (2) *Crateropus chalybeus*, Bp. (3) *Ixos vallombrosæ*, Bp. (evidently the same as Ehrenberg's *xanthopygius*). (4) *Saxicola erythræa*, H. et E. (5) *Cercomela asthenia*, Bp. (6) *Ammoperdix heyii* (Temm.). (7) *Gavia brunneiceps*, Bp. (8) *Ceryle rudis*. They were collected by the Due de Vallombrosa.

We quite agree with Mr. Tristram in calling the attention of the many travellers who visit the Holy Land every year, to the very inaccurate knowledge we as yet possess of its fauna, and to the many interesting species which they may obtain there; such as, among the birds, *Cinnyris osea*, *Ixos xanthopygius*, *Amydrus tristramii*, &c., which are quite unknown in European collections.—(ED.)

III.—Ornithological Reminiscences of Egypt.

By E. CAVENDISH TAYLOR, M.A., F.Z.S.

THE following birds (with two or three exceptions) were shot by myself and three friends, in Egypt, between Alexandria and the first Cataract of the Nile, during the months of November and December 1853, and January 1854. In the very few instances where the bird was not actually obtained, it was seen by myself so plainly as to leave no doubt on my mind as to its